

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of The Study

*My Name Is Khan* (2010) is a Hollywood drama film about the life of Muslims in America after World Trade Center (WTC) attack in 9/11. It is described by a journey of a Muslim who lives happily in New York and how it changes badly because of 9/11 attack. This movie was released on 10 February 2010 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. In the same month, it was also screened as part of the 60<sup>th</sup> Berlin International Film Festival's official selection. The film was released in India on DVD on 28 April 2010. Blu-ray in India, plus a DVD release worldwide followed on 10 August 2010.

*My Name is Khan* (2010) has the run time 161 minutes. It uses Hindi and English. The settings used are: San Francisco; Washington D C; Bowling Green, Kentucky; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Wilhelmina, Georgia; Arizona Desert; Los Angeles and Brooklyn; New York. *My Name is Khan* (2010) is a success movie because it creates several records, both in India and around the world. In India, the film smashed the record for a Bollywood release in the month of February, breaking the previous two-year record held by Jodhaa Akbar. The film also broke the record for a Bollywood release in the first quarter of the year, breaking the previous two-year record held by Race. In the UK, the film broke the four-year record of *Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna*, and became the highest-grossing Bollywood film in the UK so that it was ranked

6<sup>th</sup> of UK box office. In the Middle East it is also the highest grossing Bollywood film. As of date *My Name Is Khan* (2010) was successfully reaping revenues of U.S. \$ 1.4 million. It became a Hollywood film with the largest gross revenue in its first week. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My\\_Name\\_Is\\_Khan#Box\\_office\\_records](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My_Name_Is_Khan#Box_office_records))

There is no something perfect in this word. Besides gets rank 6<sup>th</sup> UK box office, *My Name is Khan* (2010) experiences a controversy by Shiv Sena, a Hindu nationalist political party. On February 12, some demonstrators threw stones down posters and movie. Hindu extremists are not boycotting the film because the story mentioned a conflict between Muslim and Hindu extremist which is called SARA, but they were disappointed with the main star, Shah Rukh Khan, who has a cricket club revealed that he does not agree that Pakistan cricket players banned for playing in the Indian league. (<http://coolceleb.org/movie/my-name-is-khan-break-uk-box-office-records>).

It also gets critics from Indian and American. It was well received by top critics in India. Subhash K. Jha (film critic and author of *The Essential Guide to Bollywood*) gave *My Name Is Khan* (2010) a rave review arguing that Rizwan Khan repairs almost anything, including irreparably damaged relationships. But this film about damaged lives needs no repairing. In USA, The film received mixed reviews from U.S. critics and media outlets. Rachel Saltz of *The New York Times* states "*Khan* is one of a handful of Hindi films (*New York, Kurbaan*) about Indians living in a paranoid, post-9/11 America, and there's something fascinating about looking at this country through a

Hollywood lens, even when the story is a kind of fairy tale.” Another critic also comes from Jay Wesissberg of *Variety Magazine*. He describes *My Name Is Khan* as a "riotously overstuffed and enormously enjoyable drama" with "confident camerawork which is matched by exceptional production design." He also states that Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol are a "delight together and her natural warmth makes the relationship even more believable." ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My\\_Name\\_Is\\_Khan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My_Name_Is_Khan))

*My Name is Khan* (2010) is directed by Karan Johar, with a screenplay by Shibani Bathija, produced by Hiroo Yash Johar and Gauri Khan, and starring Shahrukh Khan and Kajol. It is overseen by both Dharma Productions and Red Chillies Entertainment. Johar is an Indian film director, producer, and TV celebrity. He is one of the most successful young filmmakers in Hollywood. Karan Johar was born in Mumbai, India to Indian Bollywood film producer Yash Johar, founder of Dharma Productions and Hiroo Johar. He studied at the Greenlawns High School and attended H.R. College of Commerce and Economics. He received a Masters degree in French. Johar is not only as a maker of *My Name is Khan* (2010) screenplay. The others movie are *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* (1998), *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham* (2001), *Kal Ho Naa Ho* (2003), *Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna* (2006), *Koochie Koochie Hota Hain* (2010), *Love You Maa* (2010) and *Mumbai* (2010). Karan Johar gets several award such as, Filmfare Awards as Best Director and Best Screenplay in 1999 of *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* (1998) and Best Dialogue in 2002 of *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham* (2001), IIFA as Best Costume Designer in 2001 of

*Mohabbatein* (2000) and Best Dialogue in 2002 of *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham* (2001), Star Screen Awards as Best Director in 1999 of *Kuch Kuch Hota Ha* (1998) and Best Screenplay in 2004 of *Kal Ho Naa Ho* (2003).

*My Name is Khan* (2010)'s Screenplayer, Shibani Bathija, is an Indian screenwriter. She studied English at DePauw University and Communications at San Francisco State. After a period in advertising with SONY, Bathija showed a script to Karan Johar which was then accepted by Yash Raj Films. She served as screenwriter for two 2006 releases, *Fanaa* (2006) and *Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna* (2006). Her upcoming films included Sanjay Gadhvi's *Kidnap* (2008) and Karan Johar's *My Name Is Khan* (2010).

*My Name is Khan* (2010) is a movie about the life of Muslim after World Trade Center Attack. There is a Muslim child who grows up with his brother and mother in a middle class family in the Borivali part of Mumbai. His name is Rizwan Khan. He is different from the other children. He has Asperger's syndrome. Although he has the disease, he has a special ability to repair any broken machine. His difference leads to special tutoring from a reclusive scholar and extra attention from his mother. This attention makes his brother, Zakir, is jealous with him. He then decides to leave his family for a life in the United States.

After they become adult, Zakir invites Rizwan to come and live with him in San Francisco. Zakir's psychologist wife, Haseena knows and diagnoses Rizwan as having Asperger's syndrome, a disease which makes him difficult to interact socially. Rizwan also begins to work for Zakir as an herbal

salesman. When he is selling her products, he meets a Hindu single parent, Mandira and her young son, Sameer or Sam, from a previous marriage. Despite they have different religion, they marry and settle down in the fictional town of Banville, where both Mandira and Samir take Rizwan's last name as their own. They also live next door to the Garrick family, a journalist names Mark and Mandira's friend, Sarah. They have a young son names Reese. He becomes Sam's closed friend.

After the September 11 attack on the twin towers in New York City, the Muslim gets some disturbs. The Khan family begins to experience post 9/11 prejudice in their society. Mark goes to cover the war in Afghanistan and dies there. Then the fight between Sam and a number of older students is happened. One afternoon, Sam wants to talk with Reese but he refuses it. Reese has an assumption that his father death is caused by Muslim, so that he does not want to talk with Sam. Looking at them, a number of older students fight Sam. Reese tries to stop the fight but is held back. They injure Sam so badly that he dies. Mandira thinks that the cause of Sam death because of Rizwan last name, Khan. She then tells Rizwan that she no longer wants him in her life. When he asks her what he has to do to be a part of her life, she tells him that he has to tell the people of the United States and the President that his name is Khan and that he is not a terrorist.

Rizwan then gets a long journey that takes him from one United State to another in order to first meet President George W. Bush and later Barack Obama. During this mission, he is detained and later freed from the San

Francisco Airport. Later, in Los Angeles, he prays in a Mosque and hears violent rhetoric from Faisal Rahman. He reports this to the FBI but there is no response at that moment. Later, while waiting in a crowd to meet President Bush and repeating again and again, "my name is Khan and I am not a terrorist," there is a police who misinterprets his statement so that Rizwan is arrested and placed in a prison. Sometimes the police brings him to the very hot place, but sometimes in the very cold place. He gets many bad treatments. He is later released after media campaigns by two Indian student reporters prove his innocence.

After his release, he returns to Georgia to help Mama Jenny and her son where they experience a storm. His efforts attract media attention and a number of Muslims to help them as well. At the same time, Reese admits to Mandira and tells the identity of the boys who attack Sam. She then informs Detective Garcia who has been assisting her on the case. After the police justice them, Mandira joins Rizwan in Georgia. When she arrives, Rizwan is stabbed by a follower of Faisal Rahman. He is then rushed to the hospital. With Mandira's help, he survives and meets the new President of United State of America, Barack Obama, who tells him: "Your name is Khan and you are not a terrorist."

*My Name is Khan* (2010) is a good movie because there are four aspects that make the writer is really interested to study it. The first aspect is the story of this film is based on the real event of World Trade Center attack in United States of America happened on September 11, 2001. Karan Johar gives

the audiences the understanding about how WTC attack happened by using this movie.

The second reason is *My Name is Khan* (2010) portrays the discrimination of Muslim in United State of America after World Trade Center attack. It had an impact to Muslims who stayed in USA because they were referred as a cause of the attack. For example, a Muslim electronic seller got a great loss. Some Americans destroyed all of his electronics. Besides that, a man with long beard also became their target as it reflects and images the terrorist. After World Trade Center attack, Muslims experienced bad treatment from American. They said that the attack came from Muslim who was called terrorist. They then assume that Islam is terrorist religion.

The third reason is about sacrifice. In this film, Khan sacrifices to prove that Islam is not terrorist religion. He also wants to keep his family. He makes a long journey to meet President of United State of America. His wife, Mandira, wants him to say to the president that his name is Khan and that he is not a terrorist. Many problems he faces before he meets the President such as he is arrested and placed in a prison by police who misinterpret his statement when he is saying "My Name is Khan and I'm not a terrorist." He also finds a problem with Faisal Rahman, a man in a Mosque that states violent rhetoric about Islam way. Rizwan is stabbed by a follower of Faisal Rahman and is rushed to the hospital.

The last reason why the writer wants to analyze *My Name is Khan* (2010) is that there is a great moral lesson about kinds of humans in this

movie. Rizwan's mother states that in this world there are only two kinds of people. They are good people and bad people. The good people do good deeds and bad people do the bad one. Only it that makes different between human. Religious is not distinguishing factor. Occupation, class, and gender cannot also differentiate them.

Based on the previous reasons, the writer will analyze *My Name is Khan* (2010) movie by using sociological approach. So, the writer constructs the title **STEREOTYPING OF BEING MUSLIM IN AMERICA REFLECTED IN JOHAR'S *MY NAME IS KHAN* (2010): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

## **B. Literature Review**

There is no previous research on Stereotyping of Being Muslim in America Reflected in Johar's *My Name is Khan* (2010): A Sociological Approach at least in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

## **C. Problem Statement**

The problem in this research is "How is stereotyping of being Muslim in America reflected in Johar's *My Name is Khan* (2010) movie?"

## **D. Limitation of the Study**

To make the research appropriate with the objectives of the study, the writer will make a limitation to the research. The writer will only focus on



how stereotyping of being Muslim in America is reflected in Johar's *My Name is Khan* (2010) by using sociological approach.

#### **E. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follow:

1. To analyze Johar's *My Name is Khan* (2010) based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze the stereotyping of being Muslim in America reflected in Johar's *My Name is Khan* (2010) by using Sociological approach.

#### **F. Benefits of the Study**

The benefits of the study are expected from this research are follow:

##### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

By doing this research, the writer wants to have contribution in critiquing a literary work and producing criticism as objective as the writer can.

##### **2. Practical Benefit**

This research is expected to give understanding about stereotyping of being Muslim in America reflected in Johar's *My Name is Khan* (2010) especially to the writer and generally for other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and also can be used as reference by others universities that are interested in literary study on the movie based on sociological approach.

## **G. Research Method**

In analyzing this research, the writer uses descriptive qualitative method. Dealing with research method, there will be at least four points that are needed to be involved as follows:

### **1. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is Johar's *My Name is Khan* (2010) movie.

### **2. Type of the Data and the Data sources**

In this study, there are two kinds of data sources. There are primary and secondary data source.

#### **a. Primary Data Source**

The primary data source is the movie of *My Name is Khan* (2010) by Karan Johar.

#### **b. Secondary Data Source**

Secondary data sources are taken from other sources such as the author's biography, essay, comment, historical information and other relevant information.

### **3. Technique of the Data Collection**

The method of data collection used in this study is the library research. The necessary steps are as follow:

- a. Watching the movie many times until the researcher gets adequate information or data analysis,
- b. Taking notes of the information in both primary and secondary data,

- c. Arranging the data into several information groups based on their classifications,
- d. Developing the provided data.

#### **4. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The method used in analyzing data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and sociological approach.

#### **H. Research Paper Organization**

This study is divided into six chapters. Chapter I is introduction. It consists of background of the study, literary review, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, research method and research paper organization. Chapter II delivers underlying theory, which covers the notion of sociology of literature, major principles of sociology of literature, structural elements of movie, and theoretical application. Chapter III contains the social background of American society in the early twenty-first century. Chapter IV will be structural analysis. The writer wants to explain structural element of the movie and discussion. Chapter V is sociological analysis of the movie. Chapter VI is conclusion and suggestion. Besides, the last part will be bibliography and appendix.